REMARKS

This Amendment is fully responsive to the non-final Office Action dated October 5, 2007, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. With this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,193, hereafter "Takahashi"). The Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the reasons noted below.

The Applicants maintain that Takahashi fails to disclose or suggest at least the features recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Specifically, claims 1 and 8 recite the following features not disclosed by Takahashi:

"format engine managing means for pre-defining common states which define operating states of each format engine in a representation common to all the format engines, and managing an operation of each format engine; and

operation control means, provided in correspondence with each format engine, for pre-defining a correspondence between the common states and individual states which define the operating states of each format engine in a representation different for each format engine, and controlling operations of the format engines such that each format engine is in an arbitrary individual state;

wherein:

when changing a format engine to a pre-defined common state, the format engine managing means sends a message including common state information indicating the pre-defined common state to the operation control means provided in correspondence with the format engine; and

when the message is received from the format engine managing means, the operation control means controls the format engine such that the format engine is in an individual state corresponding to a common state indicated by the common state information included in the message."

In the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 8, when changing a format engine to a pre-defined common state, the format engine managing means sends a

message including common state information indicating the pre-defined common state to the operation control means. In other words, the format engine managing means controls the format engine in the common state. Additionally, when a message is received from the format engine managing means, the operation control means controls the format engine such that the format engine is in an individual state corresponding to the common state indicated by the common state information included in the message.

As described above, in claims 1 and 8 of the present application, <u>two kinds of information (i.e., the common state information and the individual state information) are used to manage and control a format engine</u>. The common state information is common to all format engines, wherein the individual state information has format and content that is different for each format engine.

Takahashi discloses a control system for multimedia devices via a network. (see abstract). As described in Takahashi, the multimedia devices are controlled via a LAN or other similar devices; such as a multimedia controller (i.e., format engine). Specifically, in Takahashi, the multimedia controller sends an operation request to one of the multimedia devices (see col. 40, lines 37-65). For example, the multimedia controller sends an operation request to the multimedia device that causes the multimedia device to perform a predetermined operation (power on/off). However, Takahashi fails to disclose or suggest the use of <u>two kinds of information (i.e., the common state information and the individual state information) when controlling a multimedia device</u>; as in claims 1 and 8.

Additionally, Takahashi discloses that, in place of the multimedia controller, an input delegate object and an output delegate object can be implemented to provide instructions for copying or the like (see col. 19, line 43- col. 20, line 23). However, again Takahashi fails to disclose that the input delegate object and output delegate object provide instructions using <u>two kinds of information (i.e., common state information and individual state information)</u>, as in claims 1 and 8.

Based on the foregoing, independent claims 1 and 8 are not anticipated by Takahashi. Additionally, dependent claims 2-7 are not anticipated by Takahashi based at least on their dependency from independent claim 1.
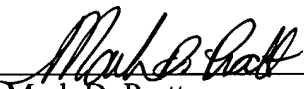
In the Office Action, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi. Claim 5 depends from independent claim 1.

7

As noted above, Takahashi fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1. Accordingly, no obvious modification of or combination with Takahashi would result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claim 1, from which claim 5 depends

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections presented in the Office Action dated October 5, 2007, and pass this application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 7, 2008